THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY): (a) As per the report received from the Indian Bureau of Mines, which is the regulatory body for enforcing the provisions of the Mines and Minerals (Development & Regulation) Act, 1957 and the Rules framed thereunder, no case of violation of the laid-down norms by the State Governments for grant of mining leases and permission for extraction of iron ore across the country has come to notice.

(b) to (d) Does not arise.

Export of mineral resources

223. SHRI SITARAM YECHURY: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Taskforce appointed by the Planning Commission has recommended the opening of our mineral resources for exports;

(b) if so, whether it would any way affect industrialization of the country; and

(c) whether Government are considering to have a re-look into the whole issue of National Mineral Policy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY): (a) to (c) A High Level Committee (HLC) under the Chairmanship of Shri Anwarul Hoda, Member, Planning Commission was constituted to review the National Mineral Policy, 1993, and suggest measures to improve the flow of private investment and introduction of state-of-the-art technology in exploration and mining in India. Exports of minerals in India continue to be guided by EXIM policy notified by the Government. However, the HLC took up export of iron ore as one of the issues, not specifically included in the Terms of Reference, whose resolution was considered as crucial for stimulating investment and technology flows into the mining sector. The National Mineral Policy is under consideration of the Central Government.

Gold deposits in Orissa

224. SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether gold deposits have been discovered recently in Orissa by the Geological Survey of India and the Geology Department of the State; and

(b) if so, the details thereof, indicating the extent of deposits, their commercial vaibility and by when mining thereof is likely to begin, if commercially viable?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY): (a) No, Sir. Neither Geological Survey of India (GSI) nor Directorate of Geology, Orissa have discovered any gold deposits recently in Orissa.

(b) Question does, not arise.

Mining projects in Andhra Pradesh

225. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have sanctioned any projects of mining in Andhra Pradesh during the last three years;

(b) if so, the complete details thereof;

(c) what parameters Government have followed while sanctioning projects in the State;

(d) what is the present mining policy in the State;

(e) whether Government have accorded any licence to the private persons in mining lease;

(f) if so, the complete details thereof during the last three years; and

(g) what is the present status of mining industry in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY): (a) and (b) State Governments are the owners of minerals and grant mineral concessions for mining projects. Prior approval of the Central Government is required only for grant of mineral concessions for the minerals specified in the First Schedule of Mines and Minerals (Devleopment and Regulation) Act, 1957 (MMDR Act). The details of mineral concession proposals approved by Ministry of Mines including those approved in respect of Andhra Pradesh during the last three years are available on the website of Ministry of Mines *(http://www.mines.nic.in)*.

(c) The prior approval of the Central Government on proposals for grant of mineral concessions is given as per the provisions of the MMDR Act, 1957 and the Rules framed thereunder.

(d) National Mineral Policy, 1993 generally guides the mineral sector in India including the mining policies of the State Governments. The National Mineral Policy, 1993 can be accessed on the website of Ministry of Mines *(http://www.mines.nic.in)*.

(e) and (f) Under the MMDR Act, an Indian national or a company registered in India under Section 3(1) of the Companies Act, 1956 can be granted mineral concession, including mining lease. The details of mineral concession proposal approved by Ministry of Mines are available on the website of Ministry of Mines *(http://www.mines.nic.in)*.

(g) As per the information given by Indian Bureau of Mines, the value of mineral production in Andhra Pradesh (excluding atomic minerals) was Rs. 6956 crore in the year 2005-06 as against Rs. 6832 crore in the previous year.

Implementation of Sachhar Committee report

226. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether steps have been taken to implement the report submitted by Justice Rajendra Sachhar Committee for upliftment of the Muslim community;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the action taken report based on the above recommendations and the details of implementations of above report, State-wise and category-wise;

(c) whether there is any plan/proposal to address the problems faced by the Muslim community on the health, education and employment fronts as on date;

(d) if so, the details thereof, and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?